Barrere Ensemble In First Concert

By Sylvester Rawling.

THE Barrere Ensemble gave the first concert of its fifth season at the Belasco Theatre yesterday afternoon. It was announced for 3.30 o'clock, and it actually began at 3.45 o'clock; but it was long after 4 o'clock before the last of the subscribers had dropped in. What's the use, Mr. Barrere? You would better go back to the old 2 o'clock or 2.30 o'clock schedule, and begin on time. The real lovers of the music you offer would be there. The others could drop in for five minutes, then, as now, and pick up a programme and go out and talk piffle to their associates about "the delightful concert just given, my dear, by that distinguished looking Frenchman—oh, I've just forgotten his name—but he plays the flute, you know, in the Damrosch Orchestra, and it was just lovely!" Perhaps it was the same in Beethoven's time. It must have been, or the master could never have condescended to write that duet for clarinet and flute which was on Mr. Barrere's programme. Call that Music?" said one man to his neighbor. "No!" was the reply. "That's Beethoven!"

Mr. Barrere began with a quintet by Henry Woollett, "on themes in a popular form" for flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon, which proved attractive. A quintet for the same instruments by Percy Grainger, the theme for which was engendered on a walk in the Highlands of Scotland, also was admired. It was played for the first time in New York. Besides these there was a "Ronde de Lutens," for flute, oboe and clarinet, by Christian Kriens, an ingenious and interesting composition played for the first time anywhere, and Haydn's sonata for piano and flute, admirably played by Mr. Barrere and Carolyn Beebe, the latter with almost too much self-effacement. At the end came a divertissement by Albert Roussel for piano, flute, oboe, clarinet, horn and bassoon, of such Oriental flavor that it seemed it might have come directly from the Sultan's harem.

"Boris Godunoff," the fascinating Moussorgsky opera presented to us for the first time last year at the Metropolitan Opera House, thanks to Mr. Gatti-Casazza, got a second hearing for the season last night before a full subscription audience and two or three rows of standees behind the rail, all intensely interested and most of them staying until the last slowly descending curtain closed upon the death of Boris. Didur, as Boris, confirms the original impression of a great impersonation, and the admirable cast, including Margarete Ober, Lenora Sparkes, Maria Duchene, Sophie Breslau, Jeanne Maubourg, Althouse, Bada, Rothier, de Segurola, Reiss and Rossi, won marked approval. Mr. Toscanini conducted.

Mrs. Kennedy Fraser and her daughter of Edinburgh, Scotland, will give a public lecture recital at the Wadleigh High School this evening. "Songs of the Hebrides" will be the text, illustrated by folk songs collected by Mrs. Fraser and her daughter.

THE UNCERTAINTIES OF LIFE.
(From the Ackley (Ia.) World.)

While sharpening a knife in the Chadima market at Hampton, Dell Paton nearly cut his thumb off.

A tree that John Meester of Pleasant Valley was chopping down fell on him and broke his shoulder.

T. A. Slean has a sore hand. He struck his thumb instead of the nail.

OSCAR ADMITS OPERA IN NEW YORK CITY FOR HIM IS BARRED

Says Son Harry Will Open the New House—Court Injunction Proves Sweeping.

Final judgment was entered by Justice Pendleton yesterday in the Supreme Court in the injunction suit brought by the Metropolitan Opera Company against Oscar and Arthur Hammerstein. The Court in explicit language orders that both the defendants be restrained and enjoined until April 30, 1920, either alone or as members of any firm, partnership or in any way, from producing grand opera in any language in the city of New York. The decree specifically extends the injunction to their "agents, employees, attorneys and servants."

This was apparently too broad for even Mr. Hammerstein to contend against and last night he said that it was evident he couldn't give any opera, at any rate until after his appeal from the decision has been decided. He expects to see opera given in his new house, nevertheless, in January, and stated that his son, Harry Hammerstein, the President of the American Grand Opera Company, is in charge of affairs, although he doesn't know much about his son's plans. When asked where his son would get his financial support, Hammerstein said that help would be forthcoming and that one person alone was ready to supply $10,000 as a starter.

Should Oscar Hammerstein turn over to the American Grand Opera Company the opera house and what costumes, scenery and properties he has as a gift and show no further interest or connection with any production the company might make, it is believed that the American Grand Opera Company could make operatic presentations, provided the Court was of the opinion that Hammerstein had made his offer in good faith and not for the purpose of getting around the Court's order.

Henry A. Wise, attorney for Hammerstein, said last night that the case will be carried to the United States Supreme Court if necessary. Harry Hammerstein could not be found.

REPUBLICANS AGREE ON SPECIAL CONVENTION

National Committee Also to Act on Compromise Plan of Naming Delegates.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The Republican National Committee agreed late last night, at a dinner given by Chairman Hilles, upon the programme for the meeting of the committee to-day.

It was decided that a special convention of the Republican party be called immediately to revise the basis of representation in future conventions and make certain changes in methods of procedure.

That the committee itself fix a new basis of representation in party conventions and submit them to the State Republican conventions for ratification, the changes to become effective when approved by the conventions of States in which was cast two-thirds of the total Republican vote in the election of 1908.

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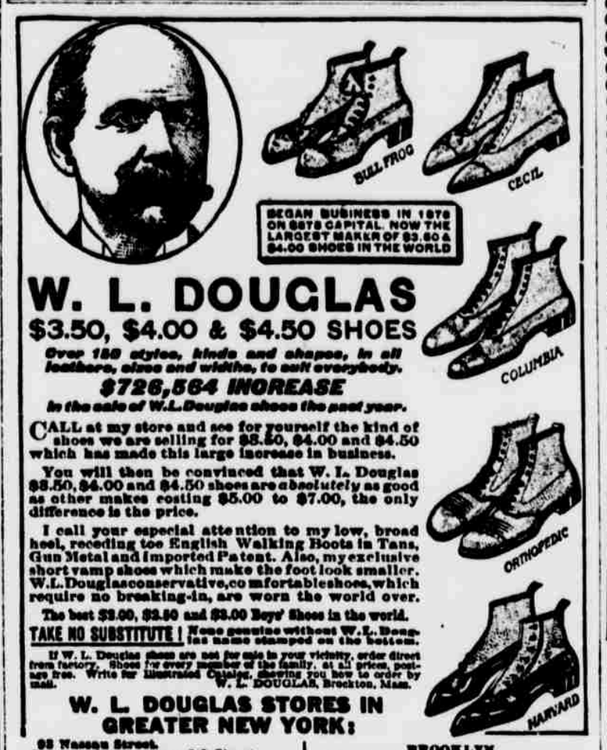

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